



TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN – RECESS MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2018 • 4:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Mayor Bill Feather, Mayor Pro Tem Jim LaFevers, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman John Linker, Alderman Kim Cress.

Staff: Mr. Phil Conrad – Town Manager, Ms. Tanya Word – Town Clerk, Mr. Mark Cook – Police Chief, Mr. Jason Hord – Maintenance Manager, Ms. Shelly Shockley – Finance Analyst / Event Planner, Dale Brown – Fire Chief

Visitor(s): Ms. Martha Cranford, Mike Brinkley

Call to Order: Mayor Feather called the meeting to order and requested a motion to come out of recess.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion at 4:00 P.M. to come out of recess from June 4, 2018. Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

FY 2018-19 Budget Planning Session:

Mr. Conrad started discussion stating that there was a previous question about the unencumbered fund balance. Ms. Shockley and Ms. Cranford provided a spreadsheet in an effort to address questions. Alderman Linker asked why there were so many different CD accounts. Mr. Conrad replied that they have different maturation dates. Mayor Feather stated that there had been multiple accounts for about 20 years, being renewed as they mature.

A. Fire Department

The Board reviewed the Fire Department budget, beginning with discussion about salaries. The recommendation was \$103,000 for full-time staff, representing a 4% variance from the previous year. Chief Brown replied that this should have been \$101,000 for the previous year. The part-time salary request is \$212,000, representing a 114% increase from the previous budget. Alderman Linker asked if that is the amount required to staff the department with three people 24-hours per day. Chief Brown explained that this would allow for using part-time staff to have three people at night, depending on the Maintenance Manager as the third person during daytime hours. This plan still leaves a void during the day on weekends when maintenance staff is not working.

Mayor Feather asked how many volunteers would be required to fill that void. Chief Brown replied that it would depend on the involvement level of the volunteer. Mayor Feather asked if there were plans to eliminate Fire Volunteers. Chief Brown stated that they were not, and he had recent conversations with people about applying to volunteer. Mayor Feather then asked at what point would they move away from having volunteers. Chief Brown did not think that would happen, stating that Salisbury still had volunteers even though they were a much larger department. There were three recent applicants, but none of them worked out for a variety of reasons. Mayor Feather asked if this level of increase would continue in future years to replace the loss of volunteers. Chief Brown replied that if this works, it should be an answer if there was someone in Maintenance to assist with calls during daytime hours. It would take an additional \$52,000 for part-time staff if there were no involvement from the Maintenance Manager.

Mayor Feather asked what the additional staff would do during time when there were no calls to respond to. Chief Brown stated that those things could expand and currently they check trucks and equipment, and some assist the Maintenance Department. There was further discussion of varied staffing models, some of which involved a full-time Fire Chief or staff that were cross trained for both Maintenance and Firefighters. Alderman Linker felt it was too limiting to require everyone in Maintenance to be Firefighters. Mayor Feather wanted to ensure that there was a plan for how the department is managed as staff and funds are added to the department, regardless of which model is chosen.

There was discussion about when the Debt Service line, which is for a truck, would end. Staff thought that the payoff would be in either 2020 or 2021. Based on the condition of the current trucks, with maintenance they should be usable for the next 15 years.

In discussion about air packs, Chief Brown explained that he had planned for the potential need to replace them. The current \$56,300 could be used to replace cylinders, or if total replacement is necessary, that could serve as a down payment on the cost of approximately \$150,000 that could be financed over 15 years. Because of this plan, Chief Brown did not feel it was necessary to save more funds toward that later purchase in this budget year.

B. Parks

The Board reviewed the Parks budget. There was discussion about the \$6,000 listed as salary for the Parks. That is being moved to the Maintenance salary budget line. There also was \$1,000 under Maintenance / Repair Vehicles that is to be moved to Supplies & Equipment in the Park budget.

There is an erosion issue with the lake at Granite Lake Park. Mr. Hord is in the process of getting estimates to rework the bank around the lake. This is something that should be considered by September. One idea was rip rap around the bank. Another was a concrete retaining wall. Mayor Feather mentioned the potential to get a Part F grant seeking funding to assist with reworking the lake. Alderman Cress suggested contacting Lynn Thomas Grading as they were the company that originally worked on the lake when the park was created. There was nothing included in the current budget for this because the cost is not known at this time.

Contracted Services was increased from \$2,300 to \$3,500 to accommodate pesticide needs. The Board agreed on \$3,000 for that line.

Scheduled Meeting:

The next Budget Meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2018 at 3:00 PM pursuant to N.C. General Statute Section 160A-71 for review of the 2018-2019 Budget.

Recess:

Alderman Costantino made a motion at 5:30 P.M. to recess the meeting until June 11 at 3:00 PM. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Stewart

Deputy Clerk